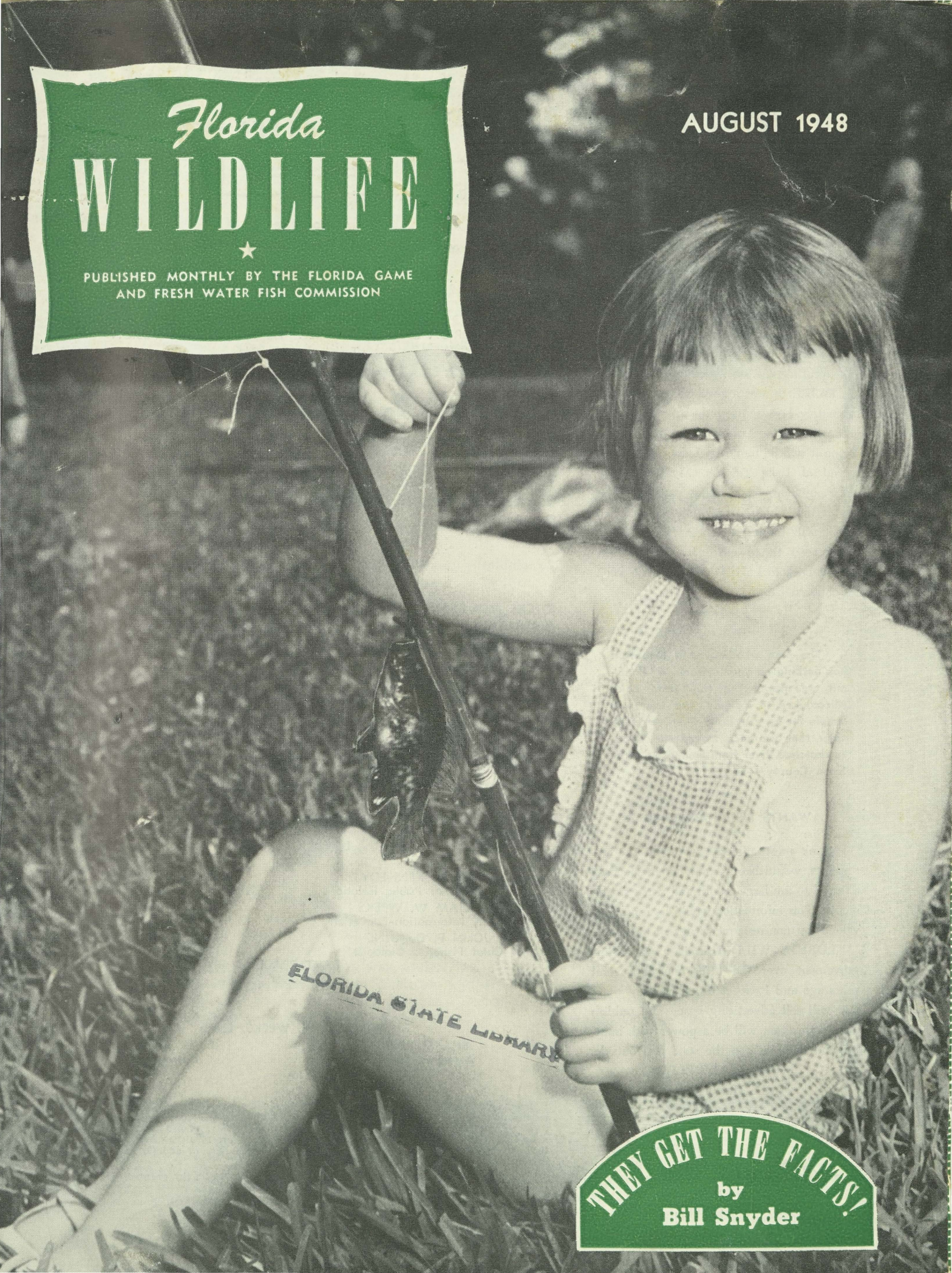
Florida WILDLIFE

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

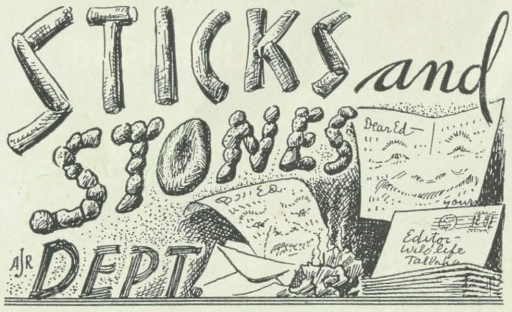
AUGUST 1948



FLORIDA STATE LIBRARY

THEY GET THE FACTS!

by Bill Snyder



PORTABLE LAKE

Dear Sir:

I was very much impressed with the front cover picture of the boys swimming that appeared in the July issue of FLORIDA WILDLIFE. It was a swell picture but unfortunately I recognized the tree the small boys were diving from and for your information it will be found on Lake Miccosukee instead of Lake Talquin. My boys have had many happy swimming parties at the foot of that old tree and now I'm worried that it will be lost to them forever since you've seen fit to move it away. Please bring it back to Lake Miccosukee and keep my children happy.

JOE KENWORTHY,
Tallahassee

(The man who moved a mountain has nothing on your editors. We'll admit we moved the tree from Lake Miccosukee to Talquin. But that was simple for us, especially when you consider that we once moved the Choctawhatchee River from Holmes to Okaloosa County.—Ed.)

★

WANTS FISH IDENTIFIED

Dear Sir:

I think most anglers, especially fly enthusiasts, would like to know when the bass referred to are large-mouth and when small-mouth. This information would be especially valued by non-resident visitors.

FLORIDA WILDLIFE is a great improvement over the little one of several years ago and I expect to see the day when you will sell advertising space and publish a magazine that will be a power with hunters and fishermen in the state and outside.

E. C. BELLES,
Harrington Park, N. J.

The Cover — *Two-and-a-half-year-old Kathleen Sink of St. Petersburg strains to hold her mighty catch.*—**Photo by Charles H. Anderson.**

VOL. 2, NO. 3

Florida WILDLIFE

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION

AUGUST, 1948

For the Conservation, Restoration, Protection, of Our Game and Fish

★

Published monthly by the
FLORIDA GAME AND FRESH WATER FISH COMMISSION
Tallahassee, Florida

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Pittman-Robertson AND HOW IT WORKS

BY O. EARL FRYE

Every sportsman has heard of the Pittman-Robertson program, but few know why or how it operates. Florida's federal aid coordinator draws a graphic picture of what it is doing for wildlife conservation.

ANYTIME wildlife conservationists get together these days there's an odds-on chance the term "Pittman-Robertson" will come out sometime during the session. There's practically no sportsman in Florida who isn't acquainted with this hyphenated, much-used designation. Less than one-third of them, however, have any clear-cut idea of what it means. Professional conservationists make casual reference to it when any wildlife program comes up for discussion, but usually a casual reference is about as far as it goes. As a result the Pittman-Robertson program has fallen into the same general category as the Marshall Plan—everyone is familiar with the term but very few know exactly what it is.

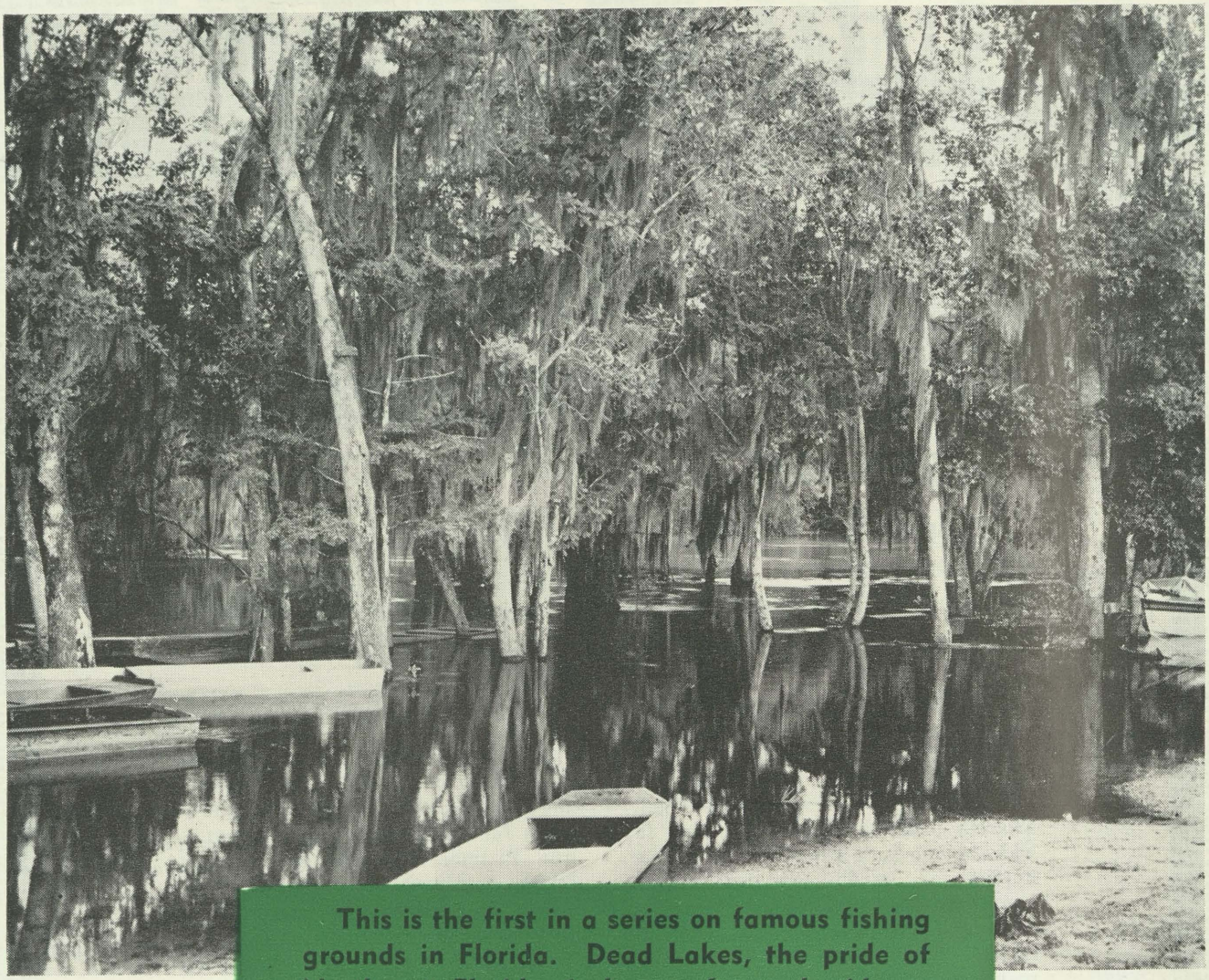
One South Florida sportsman recently expressed puzzlement to me over the great interest "this Pittman-Robertson Company" was taking in wildlife conservation. He was under the firm impression that Pittman-Robertson was a commercial concern that somehow had ankled into the middle of the nation's conservation picture.

Actually in simple words the Pittman-Robertson program is nothing more or less than a federal aid program for restoring the nation's wildlife. Pittman-Robertson is not even correct nomenclature. The act under which the program operates is listed in the statutes as the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act. It was authored and pushed through Congress by the late Senator Pittman of Nevada and Congressman (now Senator) Robertson of Virginia in 1937—a time when we were just pulling out of a nationwide financial depression and still in the middle of an equally widespread wildlife depression.

Monies for the program, provided by an excise tax on arms and ammunition, were apportioned each year to individual states on the basis of hunting license sales and the state's area.

Since 1937 the Pittman-Robertson act has sent literally millions of dollars flowing into the coffers of game

(Continued on Page 19)



This is the first in a series on famous fishing grounds in Florida. Dead Lakes, the pride of Northwest Florida, is known far and wide as one of the greatest bream havens in the South.

by Charles H. Anderson

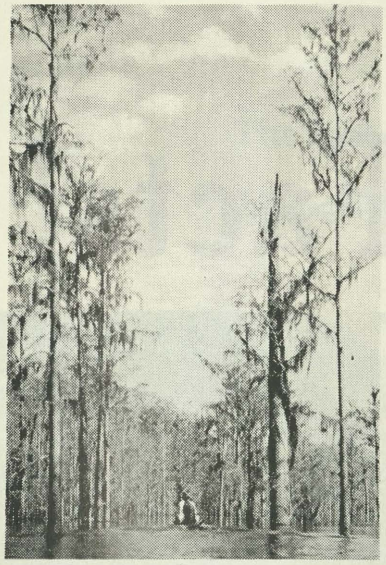
DEATH and devastation—eighty six square miles of it in the heart of northwest Florida. But fortunately, not the devastation that is associated with disaster of war. Certainly not a single macabre thought will enter the mind when a Waltonian shoves off for a day on Florida's Dead Lakes, some twenty-five miles south of Blountstown on the Marianna-Panama City highway.

Dead Lakes! To an angler that is just about as misleading a name as could be applied to anything. On the surface it might be right. But to an angler, armed with a cane pole and a can of lively red worms, there is nothing dead about the area in Gulf and Calhoun counties where the Chipola River emerges from its moss hung banks to spread over the vast area that was once a stand of prime cypress.

Sometime in the dim past, even beyond the memory of most old-timers who live in that section of the Apalachicola valley, the lazy Chipola began to choke itself on the lower course. As the waters backed, they began to take over the cypress forest. Today this forest, eight miles long, rears high no leafy branches. But instead, gaunt and bare, the bleached giants of another day stand as monuments to a forest that died that there might be the fishingest place in all the state.

The pole and line anglers of three states, north Florida, south Georgia and Alabama consider the Dead Lakes a fisherman's paradise. It doesn't make a great deal of difference where you drop anchor and put a red worm, catawba worm or cricket on your hook. It might be among the thickets of the shaded bank where cypress and water oak still struggle for existence in the black water. Maybe your choice spot will be out near the old river channel among stumps, roots and tall white skeletons of the old, dead cypress. But whatever spot you choose, you can safely be assured of one thing—you will go home with your limit of sunfish.

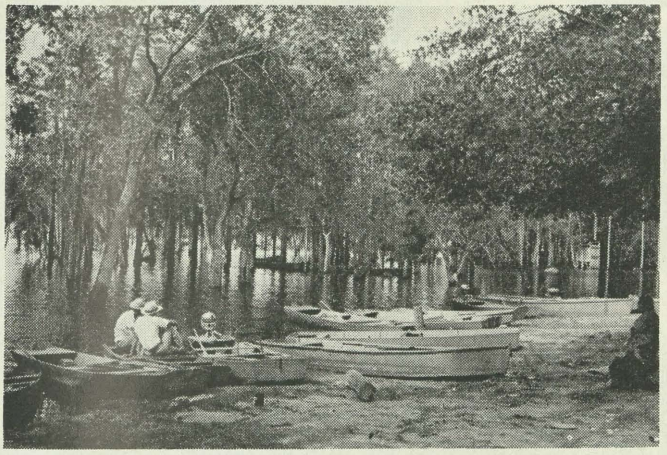
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Though its name is uninspiring, Dead Lakes' throng of towering cypress give it a certain mysterious splendor.



The body is fed by the Chipola River and half a dozen broad, spring-fed creeks. These tree-lined tributaries provide top-notch fishing when the water is right.

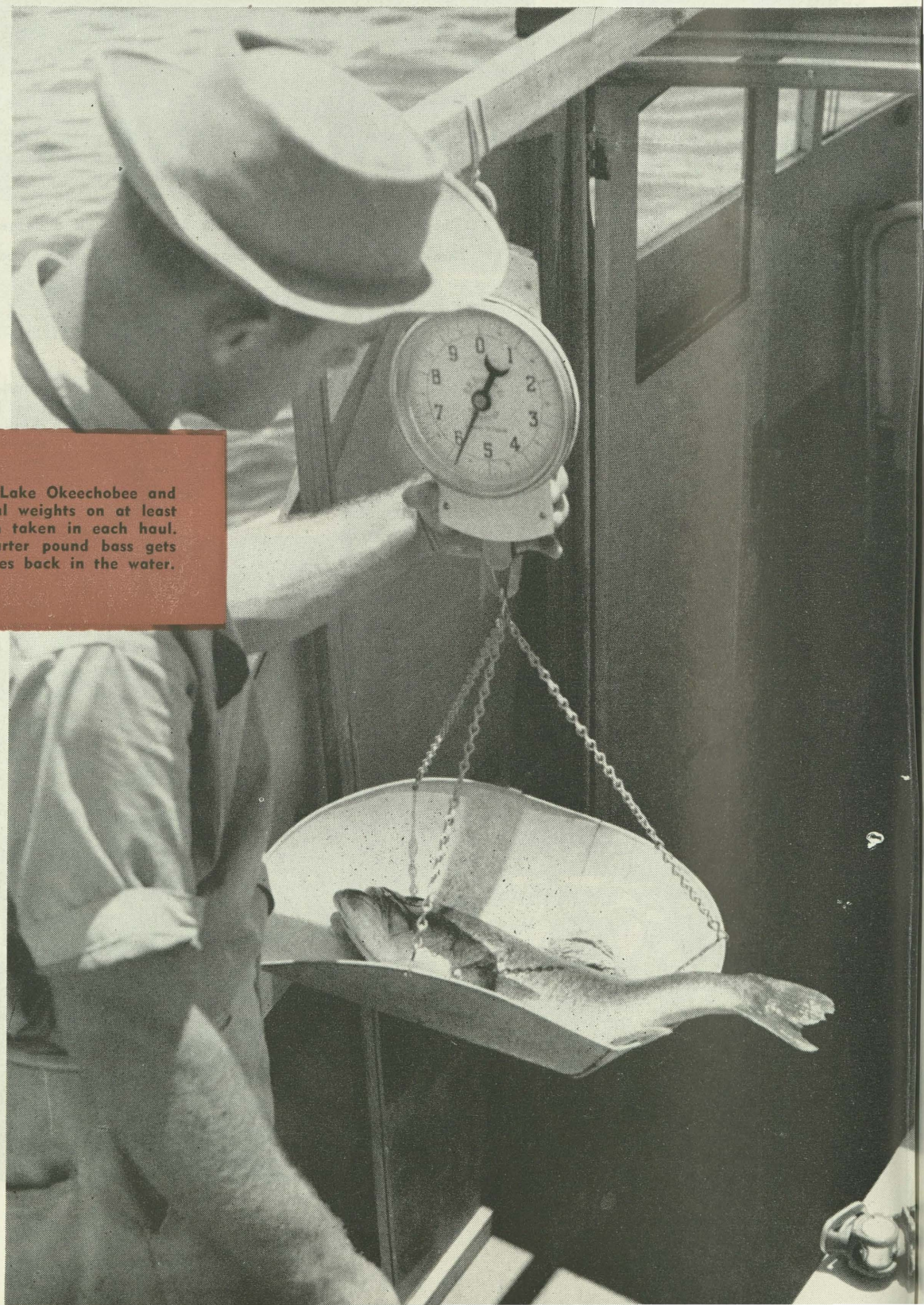


Practically every native in the Dead Lakes area does a little boat renting. There are approximately 300 boats for hire on the lake.

When the bream start hitting in June, fishermen from throughout North Florida, Georgia and Alabama flock onto the ragged body of water. As many as 2,000 anglers have been checked on the lake in one day.



They Get the Facts!



If possible biologists on Lake Okeechobee and the St. Johns get individual weights on at least one-third of the game fish taken in each haul. Here a five and three-quarter pound bass gets a weighing-in before he goes back in the water.

The author changed his mind about fisheries biologists after following in their footsteps for four days

by BILL SNYDER

FISHERIES biologists represent what probably is the most misunderstood and under-rated scientific profession in Florida today. What's more, until recently the writer of this article was a staunch member of the hard-headed league that religiously believed the biological clan produced 99 per cent boloney with one per cent effort.

First of all, biologists very definitely didn't talk my language! Why couldn't they talk good old United States English when they discussed their biological surveys? I asked myself that question a hundred times! Why in the world did they find it necessary to say: "huro salmoides," when actually they were talking about big-mouth bass? Why did they insist on using a fancy Latin moniker that a half-hour's book search disclosed meant nothing more or less than ordinary black-eyed peas? It was my inability to understand biologists generally that led to my determination to study them and their work.

Now, after walking on the heels of two of our fisheries biologists for four days at Lake Okeechobee and Lake George, and attempting to catch them up at every turn of the road, I admit I have been "converted."

I've been converted mainly because I discovered that our biologists aren't a bunch of bespectacled professors who churn out their fish data from steaming test tubes in an air-conditioned laboratory. Instead, during four rugged days I learned to my amazement that instead of being a white-collared profession, the scientific study of fish entails long hours of back-breaking work beneath a scorching sun. It means wrestling with hundreds of flapping bass each day — measuring them from stem to stern, weighing them and mentally classifying their physical condition. It means jotting down an accurate record with hands that are covered with fish scales. In other words, it means a hell of a lot of hard work!

MY determination to study biologists while they studied fish led to being rudely routed out of bed at 3 o'clock in the morning at Okeechobee.

This was the unearthly hour, I learned, that biologists head out to the scene of the day's scientific netting activity.

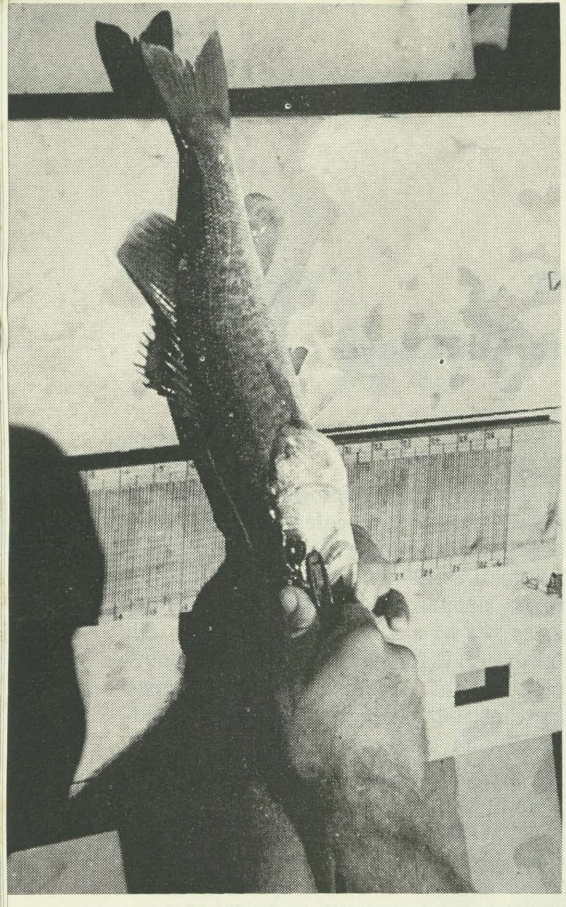
Day was just breaking when the commercial fishing crew started setting some 1,600 yards of seine in the unruffled waters of Lake Okeechobee. As soon as the net had been formed into a complete circle, the fishermen started towing it, a section at a time, with a power boat. Eventually the circle had been dwarfed to a circle about 10 feet wide which signaled the beginning of a day of scientific study.

Meanwhile the biologists had set up a pair of hanging scales aboard a rowboat. A measuring contraption, similar to a slide rule, had been secured to its proper place. One of the biologists sat at a crude desk ready to fill in official forms with every important bit of evidence that developed as the fish were removed by hand-nets from the seine.

Removing the fish from a seine is a tedious operation since, because a scientific study is being made, they are taken out a hand-net full at a time. Each net full is carefully scrutinized. Catfish are removed and placed in a huge box. Rough fish are killed, weighed and thrown overboard. Approximately one-third of the bass catch is weighed, carefully measured, and then tagged. This data, including the proper tag number, is entered on the official record of the haul. All of the bass, bream and other game

Removing bream from the fishermen's drag net for counting and weighing.





Most of the bass are tagged so their growth and migration habits may be studied.

fish are released unharmed to the lake.

My eyes bugged that day at Lake Okeechobee when the final check-up disclosed that the day's haul had accounted for 915 bass totaling 1,153 pounds; 1,060 pounds of bluegills and shellcrackers; 591 pounds of catfish; 1,600 pounds of non-predator turtles; and 104 pounds of predatory fish.

There's your answer, I reasoned. Lake Okeechobee is full of bass and shellcrackers.

However, Chief Fisheries Biologist John F. Dequine cautioned me not to be too fast on the draw in making conclusions. Tomorrow, he told me, might present an entirely different picture.

Dequine's prediction proved to be a prophecy. The next day's haul brought up only 59 pounds of bass; 450 pounds of bluegills and shellcrackers; 289 pounds of catfish; and 293 pounds of predators.

I was confused with the conflicting results of two days seining but the biologists were elated.

It is such direct opposites, they told me, that will enable them to devise a pattern that will eventually result in a workable fisheries program.

RETURNING with the commercial fishermen that afternoon, I realized they were contributing a great deal to the success of the study. They were supplying the seines, the boats and the man-power in return for permission to sell all of the catfish brought up in a haul.

Poor catfish hauls, I learned from the fishermen, are not uncommon and the crew members have been averaging "between six and seven dollars a day" as their share since the studies were started.

"It ain't much," one of the fishermen told me good-naturedly, "but it's a lot better than nothing—and that's exactly what we had until this chance to help the biologists turned up."

Several days later I moved over to the Lake George area to follow Biologist Lynn Hutchens around for a day or two. He too, I learned by experience, is getting his scientific data the "hard way." The net spreading starts at daybreak and the day's work isn't completed much before 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

The Lake George commercial fishermen assisting in the studies, I found were just as cooperative in the venture as the gang at Okeechobee.

"Our future depends on what the biologists learn in this lake and we're doing everything in our power to help them," one of the commercial lads told me.

We were greeted with a poor haul that first day on Lake George. The seine produced a mere baker's dozen of bass—the largest weighing but six pounds; 110 pounds of catfish; 375 pounds of bluegills and shellcrackers; and 55 pounds of predators.

Fish tagging, I learned that day, is an important factor in the present study. Once a bass is caught and the tag returned to the commission, the biologists can accurately determine his rate of growth and his migratory habits—facts that will be essential in planning for the future.

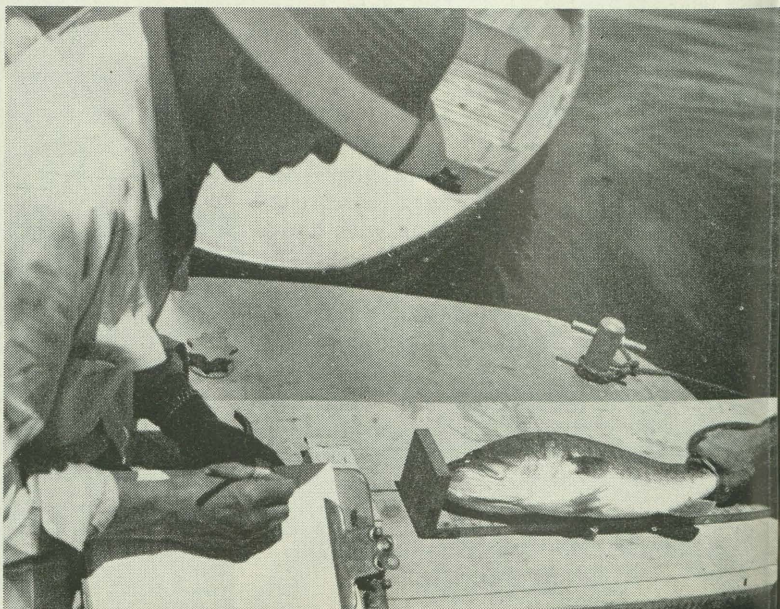
When I returned from my latest bit of biological kibitzing my feet were dragging. My clothing smelled strongly of fish and I was ready to call it a day! But the end of the day merely signaled the start of another phase for the biologists—breaking down the day's results into scientific equations that would be as clear as mud to a mere writer.

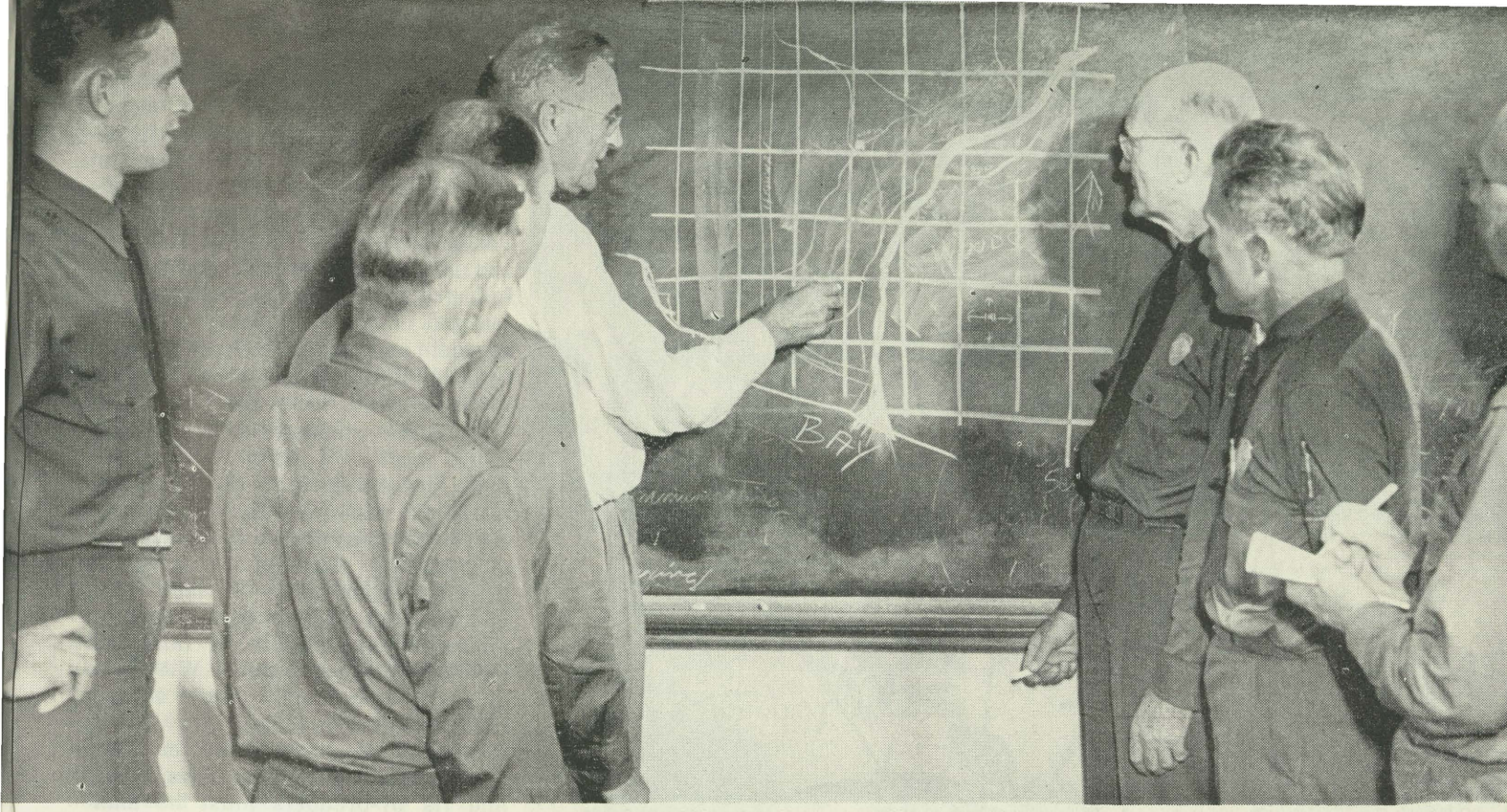
However, of one thing I was certain. Maybe biologists didn't exactly talk my kind of language but they were, with sweat and hard work, gathering facts in a perplexing problems that only a biologist could solve. Whatever the ultimate answer, I told myself, it would be solidly backed up by scientific data and, what's more important—it would be honest!

Hundreds of pounds of flapping fish are brought in with each closing sein.



When fish are tagged for release, the technicians carefully record not only their weight but their length as well.





First District Chief Wildlife Officer Ed Albritton gives a few pointers to other officers at this year's warden school.

Conservation Goes to College

FLORIDA'S 195 wildlife officers got their second healthy dose of "booklarnin' " last month at the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's annual school for wardens. The two three-day sessions, originated last year by Director Ben C. Morgan, were held on the University of Florida campus in Gainesville. Unlike last year, this year's school was conducted by bona fide college professors in a strictly classroom atmosphere — right down to final exams.

The classes were conducted by the general extension service, with the college of law, the college of arts and sciences and the department of biology chipping in. Instructors from these three schools handled about two-thirds of the courses.

Last year's two instruction periods dealt largely with actual field problems and court room demeanor. This year, however, the wardens were wised up on more than a dozen important subjects, ranging from commission history and court procedures to predator control and public relations.

"You've got to have a working knowledge of all these subjects and dozens more to be a good wildlife officer, " Director Morgan told his men at the opening of the school.

All the details for the school, including subjects for study, were worked out by ex-school teacher Coleman Newman, now commission's deer and turkey biologist, and Dean B. C. Riley of the extension division.

Newman and Dean Riley followed last year's procedure by holding two identical schools in order to leave a field force on duty. The first school, held July 22-24, drew 98 men from all five districts and the second session, a week later, drew 97.

Wildlife officers get together with college professors for three days of lessons and exams.

Commissioner Ellis F. Davis, Fifth District, led off the instruction with a lecture on the general concepts of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. Davis, a prominent Kissimmee attorney, outlined the main objectives of the commission, and what they meant to Florida's conservation future. He pointed out how far conservation had come in the past two decades and how much farther it was destined to go.

Director Ben C. Morgan then gave the officers some startling figures on the size of the "industry" they were protecting. Morgan declared hunting and fishing was worth more than $200,000,000 a year to Florida. The State's wildlife, and its by-products, he said, constitute a business second only to the tourist and citrus industries.

In a background study, Dr. I. N.

(Continued on Page 17)



Beggarweed, a number one quail food that reseeds itself is found in all sections of the country. Many farmers have increased quail production by controlled cultivation of this supposedly useless plant.

QUAIL-BY-PRODUCT

Too many farmers are failing to utilize what could be an important by-product of their land, says this wildlife expert

by ROBERT W. MURRAY

IN this day of modern industry and economics more and more attention is being given to the utilization of by-products derived from our natural resources. Today many commodities are manufactured from the wastes and refuse of the coal, oil, and lumber production, so that the full utilization of our resources is realized. Failure to do this would be waste and exploitation, and wasteful exploitation would soon exhaust these valuable resources.

In rural communities quail and other species of farm wildlife are today by-products of the land—no more, no less. Wildlife should be conserved, managed, and utilized as a by-product. It should not be wasted if full utilization of the land is to be expected. There has been too much exploitation of the land and too little conservation. With the acreage of America's fertile tillable land rapidly decreasing and the human population rapidly increasing there must be conservation. Land and its by-products must be managed and used wisely.

Wildlife has not been considered as a by-product of the land by the landowner. It was considered as an incidental part of nature that either was there or was not. Its presence or absence in most instances was of little concern. The concept of land usage has been the support of the people—not wildlife. To say that this concept has changed would be a fallacy. To say that it will ever change would be poor reasoning. With the average

landowner wildlife can never be the primary product of the land.

With agricultural land the primary product must be agriculture as long as people must eat and clothe. Considerable attention has been devoted to making wildlife a primary product of the land by wildlife technicians and Game Departments in the past. This is economically unsound. Agriculture economics makes it an impossibility. The primary product will almost always be the product which yields the greatest cash return for the amount invested. The truth of it is if wildlife ever interferes with the primary crop—exit wildlife. Wildlife conservation on the farm becomes a practical possibility and reality only when it lends or adds to the farmers income, or when practices designed at increasing the primary product are also in accord with those that benefit wildlife as a by-product.

How does wildlife become a by-product of agricultural land? How does its conservation fit into the economic land use picture on the farm? As a background to the picture let's go back to the soil and its conservation. All plant and animal life upon the earth is dependent upon the soil. The future national economy of America depends upon the conservation and wise use of her soil. Some years ago the fact that our good agricultural soils were decreasing at an alarming rate became a national issue of vital concern. As human food consumption increased with the ever-growing population and the acreage of tillable land decreased, something had to be done. The Soil Conservation Service adopted as its working slogan, "Conserve the soil; make every



A half-acre plot that will feed many quail and several turkey. Planted near a clean, wooded area are partridge peas and proso for quail and field peas for turkey.



Terrace farming not only prevents erosion but provides a five to six yard strip for many small seed plants. Shown are beggarweed plants between corn.

OF THE LAND

acre pay". Make every acre productive—productive within its own capacity. Land was classified according to its capacities or capabilities to produce. Land that could not be used profitably for the production of anything else, was classified as wildlife land. This included areas that were seriously eroded and odd areas that could not be profitably cultivated. It included field borders adjacent to timber that could not be cultivated profitably because of the trees sapping the soil of its moisture and plant nutrients. It included spoilbanks, streambanks, and windbreaks. The system of "balanced farming" inaugurated by the service recognizes the importance of birds as an indispensable part of the farm when it comes to the combatting and controlling of insects and noxious weeds. Birds thereby contribute indirectly to the monetary return from crops, making them important by-products of agricultural land.

In forestry wildlife has also become a recognized by-product of such modern practices as selective cutting and controlled burning. Selective cutting lessens competition and promotes growth rate of the trees. By the same token it promotes mast or seed production and thus make reproduction possible. Mast is an important food source for wildlife. Selective cutting also pro-

(Continued on Page 14)

Conserving, Protecting, Restoring a

FLORIDA WILDL

In the Interest of the Spor



Visitors at the Federation's Keystone Heights meeting left to right include: Ben C. Morgan, William Davis, Ralph G. Cooksey, Sarah and Haynes Alberson, J. V. Kelsey and E. A. Markham. Kneeling are Porter Lansing and Ad Cullis.

Child's Books Offer Conservation History

Nearly 250,000 of the National Wildlife Federation's *My Land and Your Land* children's booklets have been distributed since their first printing in 1941, the Wildlife Management Institute disclosed recently, and additional orders have been placed for another 100,000 copies.

These educational booklets, copiously illustrated in color, tell the story of conservation in words that are readily understood by the grade-school children for whom they were written. By teaching the youngsters in their most formative years, these publications are doing much to assure a broad and healthy interest in conservation by the coming generations.

Many public schools throughout the country are using them in their classes, and in some states they have been contributed to school systems by public-spirited individuals, organizations, and by the state conservation departments.

The four booklets, together, form a sound basis in conservation education for the youth. If a set of these excellent booklets could be placed in the hands of every child of grade-school age, the problems of the conservationist of the next generation would be simplified.

Wildlife Federation Airs Vital Subjects At Business Session

KEYSTONE HEIGHTS.—This city did everything but "call out the band" to welcome members of the Florida Wildlife Federation during a meeting here June 26-27. Many banners, stretched across the street, and placards placed in all store windows sought to make the Federation members "feel perfectly at home."

The week-end meeting was divided into three business sessions with President Ralph G. Cooksey presiding. At one of the meetings, C. H. Coulter, state forester, outlined his department's program and declared that his organization now favors controlled burning of uplands which, experiments have proven, is an aid to quail and other ground nesting birds since the new vegetation springing up provides them with new feeding grounds. Coulter also discussed rattlesnakes as a meance to hunters and fishermen who visit stream edges.

Federation members conducted a lengthy discussion of Florida's polluted streams and a committee was appointed to recommend steps for relieving unsanitary stream conditions following a careful investigation. Members of the committee include: Lester Varn, Jacksonville; Noah Tilghman, Palatka; Porter Lansing, Sanford; C. H. Coulter, Tallahassee; and Ben C. Morgan, director of the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission.

E. B. Chamberlain, Punta Gorda, wildlife biologist, discussed the Florida migratory waterfowl situation and called on sportsmen's clubs to spend money in replanting feeding grounds.

While the business sessions were in progress, Bill Wellman, Federation vice-president from the Fourth District, succeeded in organizing a brand new sportsman's club composed of Keystone Heights residents. The new organization immediately voted to affiliate with the Federation and started off in a big way by winning the prize offered by Treasurer E. A. Markham to the club sending the largest delegation to the Keystone meet. The prize, a cypress desk-stand with a jumping bass carved on the front, was accepted by Kale McMurthy, first vice-president of the newly organized club. The desk, outfitted with a gavel, will eventually have the club's name engraved on the front.

OFFICERS

President.....Ralph Cooksey, St. Petersbu
Treasurer.....E. A. Markham, Gulfpo
Recording Secretary.....George A. Speer, Sanfo
Executive Secretary.....Mrs. Sara Alberso

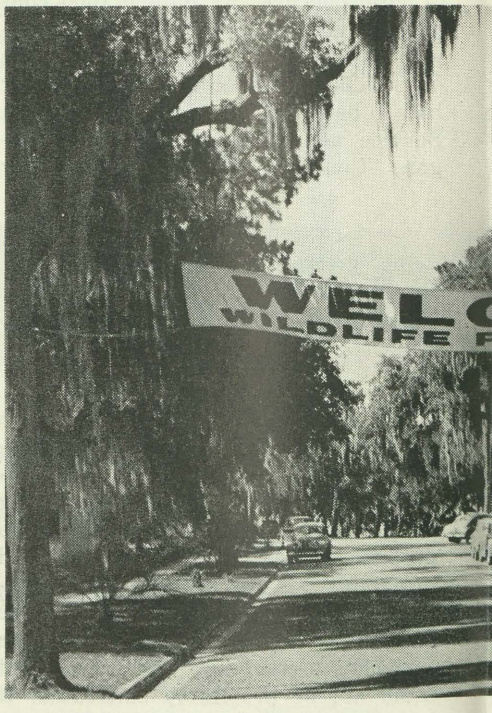
New Booklet On Predators Is Issued By Federation

A humorous "rogues gallery" of Florida's predators has been published by the Florida Wildlife Federation and is being distributed free from the organization's headquarters at St. Petersburg.

The state's worst offenders are listed in the following order: housecats, bobcats, panthers, skunks, foxes, o'possums, raccoons, armadillos, snakes, turtles, hawks, crows and great horned owls.

The thumbnail sketch of kitty begins with a confession—"I am an ordinary housecat with a Dr. Jekyll, Mr. Hyde personality. Soft purrring exterior but with the heart of a killer."

Feathered gangsters wanted for murder are listed as Cooper's hawks, sharp shinned hawks, and crows which "should be killed at every opportunity."



Keystone Heights did everything but turn its monthly meeting there on June 26-27. Wel The above banner was one of several that tol

eloping Florida's Natural Resources

FE FEDERATION

and Lovers of the Outdoors

DISTRICT VICE-PRESIDENTS

District 1	A. W. Cullis, Clearwater
District 2	S. R. Sanders, Lake City
District 3	D. R. Bowman, Tallahassee
District 4	Bill Wellman, West Palm Beach
District 5	Porter Lansing, Sanford

New West Palm Beach Club Has Comprehensive Plans

WEST PALM BEACH.—Through the efforts of Bill Wellman, well-known local sportsman, more than 250 sportsmen, representing all sections of Palm Beach County, met at the Flotilla Club here recently to form the Palm Beach County Sportsmen's Club.

C. E. Hays, associated with the American Railway Express Co., here was unanimously elected president of the new organization. It was pointed out that 15 men elected to the club's board of directors represent widely separated sections of the county and as a consequence will offer a well balanced county representation in their future actions.

Dr. I. N. Kennedy, public relations administrator for the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, who attended the inaugural meeting told the members that their proposed activity program was the "most comprehensive" of any he had ever seen.



e band when the Florida Wildlife Federation held rds were displayed in every store in the town. embers that they were welcome guests.

Record Crowd Greets High State Officials At Daytona Beach

DAYTONA BEACH.—A cheerful, interested crowd of nearly 4,000 people turned out here July 8 to attend a public meeting and entertainment program presented by the Daytona Beach Wildlife Association—a turnout that shattered all previous records for wildlife meetings in Florida.

"Threatening weather kept many hundreds of people from the meeting—the next time we hold a public meeting I'm positive we'll break the attendance record we have just established," Dr. Edward L. Thompson, prexy of the local live-wire sportsman's organization, predicted.

The program, presented at Daytona Beach's attractive bandshell adjacent to the Atlantic beach, was highlighted by short, snappy talks given by Ben C. Morgan, director of the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, and Ralph G. Cooksey, president of the Florida Wildlife Federation. Both speakers were introduced to the large crowd by President Thompson. As an added attraction, Joe Padderatz, of New Smyrna Beach, who lost both hands in an accident a number of years ago, entertained with his uncanny rod and reel casting demonstration The program was topped off with the showing of three sound films supplied by the Game Commission.

During Director Morgan's talk he described some of the most important activities now being undertaken by the Commission. Pointing out that the commission is "big business," he cited the fact that his agency will spend a portion of its million dollar budget this year in building up fish and game stocks and in procuring additional sites for future public hunting.

During President Cooksey's short talk, he urged all sportsmen to make added efforts to interest Florida 'teen-agers in the problems of protecting and conserving the state's wildlife supply.

"These little children at this meeting tonight will be the sportsmen of tomorrow," he explained. "Let's do our part in heading them in the right direction."



These hungry members of the St. Petersburg Rod and Gun Club are shown enjoying juicy watermelon during the club's annual picnic held last month.

Gulf Beach Sportsmen Launch Active Program

PASS-A-GRILLE.—Formation of the Gulf Beaches Sportsmen's Club and election of officers was completed here recently with 75 men present at the organization session in the town fire station.

Fred Cramer was elected president of the new organization. Other officers include: Horace Roberts, noted fishing guide; Ed Curtis and W. J. Calvert, all vice-presidents; Earl Seaman, treasurer, and Dr. Edmund LaFave, secretary. An advisory committee includes: F. W. McKay, M. L. North and W. Felton.

The club affiliated with the Florida Wildlife Federation immediately after it was offically organized. Officials announced a general program of activities beneficial to hunting, fishing and the observance of conservation needs. The club also will advocate laws intended to benefit salt water sports fishing.

Dr. I. N. Kennedy, State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission administrator of public relations, and Ralph G. Cooksey, president of the Florida Wildlife Federation, assisted in the formation of the new club. Other prominent sportsmen who appeared on the program included: E. A. Markham, federation treasurer; Paul H. Funk, president of the St. Petersburg Rod and Gun Club and Dr. Kenneth Weller, a member of the same organization.

QUAIL

(Continued from Page 11)

motes the production of wildlife foods by allowing sunlight to fall upon the forest floor and thereby permitting the establishment of herbaceous food plants. However, these plants will not remain established long unless controlled burning is applied to destroy the rough. Rough competes with desirable food plants and soon prevents their establishment. Rough likewise prevents tree reproduction.

As with agricultural land and forestry land, wildlife can be a by-product of properly managed pasture and grazing land. Controlled burning to destroy rough and broom sedge promotes the establishment of certain herbaceous wildlife food plants. Improving pastures through the use of common lespedeza and alyce clover provides valuable food for wildlife providing the pasture is not overgrazed. Conservative grazing and rotation grazing are important pasture management tools that usually contribute to wildlife management also.

To use a typical example of a species of farm wildlife for discussion, suppose we use the bobwhite quail, Florida's leading game bird. Quail management in Florida revolves around food management primarily. There must be an ample supply of food for land to support high quail populations. Food is established through three methods: controlled burning, disking, and planting. Results obtained from controlled burning of forestry and grazing land has already been discussed. Results obtained from spring disking are similar to those of controlled burning.

Planting foods should be planned with the idea of providing winter food. The late winter months are the lean months for quail. There are several foods that can be planted such as Florida beggarweed, partridge peas, corn, sesbania, or common lespedeza. The only trouble with these is the fact that they are annuals and must be planted every year if natural reseeding does not occur. For a food plant to be practical it should be a perennial that requires planting only once and little subsequent attention. On agricultural land it should be one that will grow on land unsuited for the production of crops, or on land classified as wildlife land. Such a plant was first developed for wildlife planting in the south a few years ago by Verne E. Davison, Regional Biologist for the Soil Conservation Service. It is bicolor lespedeza. This is a shrub lespedeza that attains a height of from six to ten feet. It makes fine winter food and cover for quail and songbirds. It is suited for field border planting since it will grow in the shade of trees. Strips are often planted in open woods. Being a legume it does not require fertile soil, but thrives best on heavy, well-drained soil. Once established it is a good controller of soil erosion. Planting from seed is risky on sandy soil in Florida because a good stand cannot always be assured. Most plantings are made in February from one-year old seedlings grown in nurseries. An eighth-acre planting is sufficient to carry a covey of birds through the winter. Field borders are usually planted four or five rows wide and 400 to 500 feet long. Plants are planted at two-foot intervals in each row. It takes approximately 1,000 plants to plant an eighth-acre. Planting is most satisfactorily accomplished with dibbles. Preparation of the bed consists of a good disking during the winter in time to permit the soil to settle before planting. It should be fertilized with a fertilizer high in phosphate and potash at the rate of 500 pounds per acre. The plants should be cultivated once or twice the first summer to lessen competition from weeds and grass. Once established the only maintenance required is disking and fertilizing once every three years during the winter. An important thing to remember is the fact that it cannot be subjected to grazing by cattle, horses, sheep, or goats. It is relished by livestock and they will browse the foliage until no seed crop is produced. The plant not only has proven value as quail food, but is used extensively by bees during blossoming time. It produces fine honey.

To encourage its planting, the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission furnishes seedlings to those who are interested in planting them at no cost. The Soil Conservation Service is recommending its use in their farm planning. The Commission has entered into cooperative agreement with North-Florida S. C. S. Districts whereby it agrees to furnish landowners planting stock for the development of any wildlife land recommended by the Service. Those who are interested in planting bicolor lespedeza next year may write directly to the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission at Tallahassee, or see the local S. C. S. Conservationist if he has a plan on the land. Requests should be made not later than this fall. This year 100,000 plants were distributed for planting over North Florida. Next year the Commission expects to distribute 1,000,000 plants.

Yes, the bobwhite is paying his way. Through modern progressive farming he has been placed on the credit side of the ledger and has become an economic part of the land use program. With conservation progressing on such a sound practical basis his status will surely improve. He is, in all reality, a by-product of the land.

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Nestin' Time

By B. W. PARTRIDGE

Across the fields, where briars grow
An' broomsedge patches are,
Or on a stretch of old fence row,
There comes from near an' far,
About this wondrous time o' year—
From break o' day till night—
In rich, full note an' volume clear,
The mating call, "BOB WHITE!"

The ole' folks told me years ago
Twas sign of nestin' when
The cockbird whistled in the row,
Or edge of bushy fen;
His mate was sittin' on her nest,
Well hidden from our sight
While Papa Bird went out in quest
O' food, and called "BOB WHITE!"

They tol' me, too, that, some day soon,
Their white eggs all would hatch,
An' old Br'er 'Possum and Br'er Coon,
Ahidin, in the patch,
Would do their best to grab a meal
While Mama Bird would fight
An' Papa'd make a wild appeal
By callin' loud, "BOB WHITE!"

Perhaps you've heard the same clear call,
But did not know jus' why
You nevah saw the birds at all
An' seldom made one fly;
That's why the story has been told
Your int'rest to excite,
An' all its romance to unfold
When e'er you hear, "BOB WHITE!"

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They're BITING Here

LAKE JACKSON

RECORD catches of red breast bream and bass are being made in Leon County's Lake Jackson with hundreds of fishermen answering the roll call each day. Last month's best bass catch was registered by Charley Burns, of Tallahassee. Fishing with a 2000 plug, Charley landed a choice big mouth that tipped the scales at an even 12 pounds two hours after he'd been taken from the water.

Red breast bream are exceptionally large and can be caught in deep water on the north side of the lake. Sand maggots and bonnet worms are the recommended bait. Bream are biting during the early morning hours—bass are hitting best just before dark. Fishing with earthworm bait, Lee Cosseaux and party landed their limit of bream one morning last month —and all of 'em were big ones.

★ ★ ★

JOHNS LAKE

Try Johns Lake in Orange County if you are looking for either bass or bream and start fishing along the west side. Top water plugs or live bait will attract the bass. Use wigglers for the bream. Early morning or later afternoon fishing is recommended.

★ ★ ★

DEAD LAKES

Pick your favorite spot on the Dead Lakes, whether it be in Calhoun or Gulf County, and you'll be sitting in the middle of fisherman's heaven. Bass, bream and shellcrackers will be there to greet you no matter what time of day you start wetting lines. Worms and roaches have been proving the most successful bait.

★ ★ ★

LAKE OKEECHOBEE

Paw Paw plugs and Johnson spoons have been connecting with plenty of bass in Lake Okeechobee's open spots in bull rush and pepper grass. Live bait fishermen have been hitting the jackpot in the Kissimmee River.

First District Commissioner Cecil Webb, of Tampa, got his daily bag limit in two hours flat while bass fishing with a Paw Paw plug at Grassy Cove on Lake Okeechobee several weeks ago.

LAFAYETTE COUNTY

Try out your luck at Alton Lake or along the Suwannee River if you are hungry for bass, red breasts or shellcrackers. One day last month Eldridge L. Ray, fishing in Alton Lake, landed a choice 12-pound 4-ounce bass with a Golden Shiner bait.

Worms are recommended for red breast or shellcracker fishing in the Suwannee River.

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ESCAMBIA RIVER

You'll get your limit of blue gills or crappie most any place along the Escambia River or its tributaries. Live minnows and catawba worms are the recommended baits. Wet your lines either in the early morning or late afternoon.

★ ★ ★

SUMTER COUNTY

Fishing will be excellent all this month on Panasoffkee Lake or the Withlacoochee River and bass or shellcrackers should be in abundance. You'll have your best luck in the early mornings. Use live bait for the bass and earthworms for shellcrackers.

★ ★ ★

BREVARD COUNTY

Large mouth bass are hitting in the west and north portions of Lake Washington. Your luck will probably be all to the good, too, along the South Forty Canal. Weedless buck tails and Dalton Specials have been showing results for the early morning fishermen. Many six and eight pound bass were landed last month.

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ST. JOHNS COUNTY

Speckled perch and warmouth will give you a big time along either Six Mile Creek or Trout Creek. Use hardback for the specks and earthworms for the warmouth. Specks will be found in deep water but try the shallow places for warmouth. You'll connect with warmouth in the early morning or late afternoon. Spend the middle of the day doing your speck fishing. Last month Mr. Scott, fishing in Six Mile Creek, caught 19 specks with a total weight of 18¼ pounds. Catfish have been gobbling grasshopper bait along the St. Johns River.



from SPORTSMEN'S CLUBS



One of the hardest working groups in Florida is the **Sportsmen's Club of Nichols.**

An association of Virginia-Carolina Chemical Corporation employees, the Nichols Club was organized primarily for the purpose of improving the fishing in one of the company's mined out Polk County phosphate pits.

The club's program has been stretched to include water hyacinth removal, restocking, fertilizing, rough fish removal and road improvement.

The co-operative association, limited in membership to company employees, has worked vigorously since its organization on June 20, 1947.

Elimination of water hyacinths was, and still is, the most immediate and difficult problem facing the club. Several attempts have been made to destroy these natural pests.

Members of the club first constructed a portable, gasoline powered conveyor with which the hyacinths were removed from the pools and loaded into dump trucks. Though two or three acres were cleared in this fashion the work was heavy and the progress slow, so another method was tried.

For the next experiment 600 gallons of 2-4-D solution were sprayed from rowboats. Some hyacinths succumbed but others revived and flourished.

So, the latest—and so far most successful—method was utilized. By this the hyacinths were pushed into another pool with motor boats, through a channel dug with a small dragline. Club members believe this will get rid of the floating hyacinths. Those around the shore will be sprayed with a commercial product recently developed specifically for the purpose.

The club's future plans consist of building a boat dock, a screened pavilion and a barbecue pit and sponsoring such social activities as barbecues, plug casting contests, and boat races.

The officers of the club are: president, **J. R. Durden;** secretary, **L. W. Harris;** treasurer, **J. W. Galloway, Jr.;** directors, **T. Alderman, M. C. Clements, J. E. Hatch** and **F. C. Mathis.**

As yet, members of the organization have gained little more than hard work, but progress is evident and, remarks president Durden, "the fruits of our labors can soon be enjoyed."

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Last month members of the **Hillsborough County Wildlife Association,** at Tampa, volunteered to aid state wildlife officers in rescuing fresh water game fish from streams and pot holes where they had become isolated by receding waters. Records disclose that the venture saved more than 200,000 fish that were rescued and moved to deep water. In addition, thousands of garfish, mudfish and suckers were destroyed in addition to nearly a hundred cottonmouth moccasins.

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Plans for a new conservation club at West Palm Beach, an organization which is hoped can be built into a state-wide sportsman's association, have been announced.

Two sportsmen, **O. P. Davis** and **C. E. Hayes,** temporary chairman, said that membership invitations have been extended to all nimrods and anglers who purchased hunting and fishing licenses in Palm Beach County last year. The new group will probably be known as the **Florida Hunting and Fishing League.**

★ ★ ★

At its regular monthly meeting the **Highlands County Fish and Game Club** was treated to a dinner of catfish, hushpuppies and all the trimmings.

The State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission's Chief Wildlife Officer, **J. E. Albritton,** told the members of the commission's activities in saving edible fish from bodies of water which are drying up and destroying many thousand pounds of rough fish.

President J. Paxton Hill read a letter from **L. Grady Bruce,** former commissioner of the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, who praised the club in its splendid work pertaining to conservation.

A feature of the meetings is the showing of several reels of sound motion pictures.

CONSERVATION COLLEGE

(Continued from Page 9)

Kennedy, the commission's administrator of public relations, explained the complete history of the game department back in 1926. He gave the officers a detailed account of practically every piece of legislation leading up to the establishment of the commission in its present form.

Lectures on the necessary qualifications for wildlife officers, their legal powers, the constitutional authority of the commission, and quail management problems completed the opening day studies. The four subjects were handled by Biologist Newman, Commission Attorney Earl Farr, Hon. George John Miller, College of Law, and Dr. A. M. Laessle, biology professor.

The remaining two days were taken up with classes on arrest procedure and its judicial aspects, preparation of cases, fish management problems, predator control, public relations, and office report procedure.

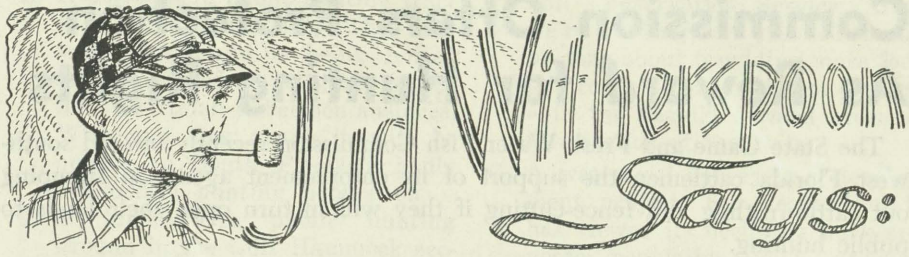
Instructors in these courses included Frank Sexton, Alachua County sheriff-designate; Alachua County Judge H. H. McDonald; Prof. C. J. TeSelle, College of Law; Commission Chief Fisheries Biologist John F. Dequine; University Biologist Dr. B. B. Leavitt; University Publicity Director Allen O. Skaggs; Commission Information Director Bill Weeks, and Commission Auditor Bart Peaden, Jr.

At the end of the third day the officers were given a 25-question written examination based on what they had been taught. Nearly 25 percent of the men made perfect scores and the class average was in the low 90's.

Commission officials, the University and the wildlife officers all seemed well pleased with the results of the course. Asked what he had learned, one district chief replied:

"Well, I've learned lots, but mostly I've learned that even at 50 a little schooling can help a lot!"

One of the most remarkable creatures in the world is the lungfish. It lives to be more than one hundred years old, buries itself in mud, forms a cocoon, sleeps from one to five years, can exist without food by living on its own fat and body tissues, possesses lungs as well as gills, looks like an eel and lives much like any other fish except that it must rise to the surface to breathe.



Judgin' from everything I hear, the boys and girls in Florida have been gettin' plenty of excitement out of fishin' from one end of the State to the other . . .

Take Joe Warn, of Tennessee, for instance. He got plenty of thrills when he pulled in an eight-pound bass from the Kissimmee River in Okeechobee County. But he got a bigger thrill when he found that the eight-pounder was holdin' a 13-inch bass in his mouth . . .

But I reckon the most excitement came with a quiet fishin' trip that suddenly turned into a reversed big game hunt—with a fierce Florida panther takin' the role of the hunter and Curtis Marsh of Wauchula, becomin' the "hunted." The story about the whole thing first appeared in the HARDEE COUNTY HERALD.

When Marsh, his wife, and two friends loaded their fishin' gear and picnic baskets into the Marsh car and headed to Charlie Creek for a day's relaxation they little suspected that the day was headin' into narrow escapes and breath-takin' excitement. Otherwise, they sure would have turned their automobile around and headed for the Marsh front porch.

The fishin' party arrived at the Creek on schedule and started wettin' lines immediately. Marsh was dissatisfied with the spot. He had a yen to fish alone so he headed up the creek a half mile where he took his sweet time batin' his hook and fillin' his pipe.

Marsh's peaceful fishin' dreams ended mighty quick though when he heard a rustlin' noise on the opposite bank. There, not 15 feet away, slowly wavin' his tail, stood a full-size panther. What's more, the panther acted kinda hungry. He licked his chops in a disconcertin' manner. He growled. He looked Marsh right square in the eye.

Marsh did what I'd have done under the same circumstances. He dropped his fishin' gear and, breaking' all world records, he stretched his legs and headed toward the quiet nook where he'd last seen his Missus and friends.

But, the panther must have had the same idea. After jumpin' the creek like a streak of lightnin' he started chasin' Marsh.

Marsh screamed!

The panther screamed too!

Marsh ran faster!

So did the panther!

Just when Marsh started suspectin' that he was feelin' hot panther breath on the back of his neck—John Bawdy, a negro fisherman, hove into view with his cracker fishin' pole slung over his shoulder.

Bawley sized up the situation in record time. A well placed wallop with the fishin' pole landed smack on the panther's rump. In a split second the panther disappeared in a thicket and Marsh's heart started beatin' again.

Now Marsh tells his friends that he wants to go back and pay the panther a visit—but there'll be a change in equipment, he says. Accordin' to last reports, Marsh is goin' to take a shotgun instead of a fishin' pole when he makes the return trip to Charlie Creek. . . .

Commission Offers Protection As Reward for Hunting Rights

The State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission recently offered southwest Florida cattlemen the support of its enforcement agents in stamping out cattle-rustling and fence-cutting if they will in turn open their lands to public hunting.

In a letter to all ranchers in the First District, Chief Wildlife Officer J. E. Albritton of Arcadia, pledged his officers to "cooperate fully" with landowners and sheriffs in apprehending fence-cutters and rustlers.

"I have learned that in the past certain wildlife officers were encouraging trespassing. . . . As we encourage law observance instead of law violation, we have discharged these men," said the letter. "We now have competent and efficient wildlife officers instructed to do nothing detrimental to the interest of those who own land."

Albritton said he had advised all his men to work with other law enforcement agencies to "apprehend law violators guilty of cattle rustling and fence cutting," and to report such violations to the landowner.

"You are undoubtedly familiar with the limited hunting areas now available to sportsmen of Florida," the letter continued. "May we hope that you will now give favorable consideration to making areas heretofore closed available to hunting hereafter."

Albritton's letter was authorized by Cecil M. Webb of Tampa, First District Commissioner. In addition to the circular letter, Webb said one wildlife officer had been assigned to contact ranchers and landowners, and outline the proposition more fully.

$119,315 In Federal Funds Allocated to Florida for 1948-49

The federal government has apportioned $119,315.28 to Florida this year as the state's share under the Pittman-Robertson program, Director Ben C. Morgan, State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, revealed last month.

In addition to this sum, Morgan disclosed that he anticipates an allocation of additional monies based on excise tax collections for May and June this year.

Under terms of the federal act, the state must put up one dollar for three apportioned by the government. This already assures $159,087.04 for Florida's federal-aid wildlife program. Morgan said the money will be spent for "game surveys, acquisition of public hunting grounds and restocking deer, turkey and quail."



Officers of the newly-formed Sportsmen's Club of Nichols. Left to right: M. C. (Crook) Clements, director J. W. Galloway, Jr., treasurer; J. E. (Ed) Hatch, director; Timothy Alderman, director J. R. (Bob) Durden, president; F. C. (Cliff) Mathis, director; and L. W. (Roy) Harris, secretary.

Alachua County Meet Attracts Big Crowd

NEWBERRY.—Members of the Alachua County Sportsmen's Association held one of their most successful "circuit" meetings here last month. More than 200 persons braved a rainy night to attend the supper-meeting conducted by President U. S. (Preacher) Gordon at the city hall.

For an hour before the meeting was called to order, the guests enjoyed a chicken dinner, topped off with apple pie and coffee. The meal was prepared and served by members of the local Home Demonstration Club.

Bill Snyder, associate editor of FLORIDA WILDLIFE magazine, addressed the members on the subject of sportsmanship. Following his talk, Charles Anderson, official photographer for the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, exhibited three reels of sound pictures. Six new members were added to the club roster during the meeting and announcement was made that the organization had officially affiliated with the Florida Wildlife Federation since the previous meeting.

DEAD LAKES

(Continued from Page 4)

But the angler needs not confine his fishing to members of the bream family. Big mouth black bass abound in the lake waters. Baiting up with a two to three inch shiner in the early morning or late afternoon very likely will line you up with a swell catch of bass. Then too, don't be surprised if you boat one weighing eight to ten pounds! Plug casting in these waters is not popular because of the many roots and grassy plants.

For the weekend fisherman or the vacationing fishing family there are accommodations every few miles along the west shore of the lake ranging from first-class sportsman's hotels in Wewahitchka to shore-side fishing camps with cabins and trailer and tent space.

Boats, bait of all types and fishing tackle are available at all fishing camps. Filling stations and wayside stands along the highway will all have "bait of the day" for sale.

Regarding boats, if you have one of the small, light type then bring it along. There are almost a thousand boats for hire on the lake but it's a good bet that there will be close to that many fishermen ahead of you.

PITTMAN-ROBERTSON

(Continued from Page 3)

departments in 48 states, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. In fact, from 1938 through 1946 the annual fund averaged nearly $3,500,000. During this fiscal year over nine million dollars will be sliced up between the 52 beneficiaries. The fund was considerably smaller in prewar years, but so was the list of recipients. It wasn't until personnel started coming back from the armed services that many states became eligible.

Florida itself took four years to get on the bandwagon, largely because of a short-sighted state administration during the late thirties. The state drew its first federal aid for wildlife restoration in 1941. Most of the money then, and during the war years, went for acquisition of land in Charlotte County. There were two farm game development projects and one deer trapping program carried out, but lack of qualified personnel stymied any major program during the war. The first big postwar project was the Charlotte County Quail Investigation inaugurated in January 1946. The investigation has given the state a great deal of badly-needed data on quail feeding habits and habitat improvement.

It wasn't until last year, however, that Florida got the full benefit of its Pittman-Robertson funds. Its 1947 allocation came to more than $110,000—none of which had to be reverted. This, coupled with the state's one-to-three contribution, gave the commission nearly $150,000 to spend on game restoration and land acquisition. In a nutshell, it meant that for less than $40,000 the department could throw into effect a full-fledged $150,000 game management program.

THIS year the commission has federal approval on eleven important restoration projects and the go-ahead signal for hiring two more badly-needed game technicians to help on the program.

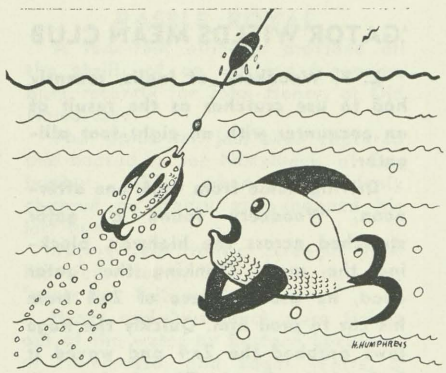
Here, briefly, is what Pittman-Robertson either has contributed or is now contributing to Florida's conservation effort:

A. A 60,000-acre state-owned quail management area in Charlotte County, being used for experimental purposes and for raising quail for restocking.

B. A 50,000-acre public hunting tract in Palm Beach County. This land was bought and is being fenced and developed as a game range under Pittman-Robertson auspices. Within a few years it will be opened to South Florida's badly hemmed-in hunting population.

C. A 110,000-acre public hunting ground in the Gulf Hammock section of Levy County. The area, which also will be fenced, was acquired under a 25 year lease only a few months ago. One biologist has been assigned to help make it an even better deer and turkey range than it is today.

D. A statewide deer and turkey survey. This important project, which should have been carried out ten years ago, was begun last year and should be completed in September. It was designed primarily to find out how many deer and turkey we have, where they are, and where they aren't but should be. The results of this survey will determine the sort of statewide management program needed for the two species.



"Don't worry, Ma, I'm undersize."

E. Charlotte County's quail research and development program. This project has been underway for two and a half years. From it we've learned a great deal of what we need to know to increase quail production in the flatwoods areas of South Florida. We've learned how to increase native food plant and how to better bobwhite's general living conditions. The development end of the project will be trying out what we learned from the investigation.

F. Habitat development and improvement for North Florida quail. This program was instigated last year with the cooperation of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service. Here we're finding out just what can be done about providing more food and cover—at a minimum expense—in the heavily farmed areas in this section of the state.

G. A waterfowl survey and development project. For years Florida has viewed its declining duck and geese population with growing concern. The program, started this year, is designed to find out the whys and wherefores of the problem and what can be done about it. Particular attention will be given the resident Florida duck, which might possibly be developed into an excellent—and permanent—source of good duck-hunting.

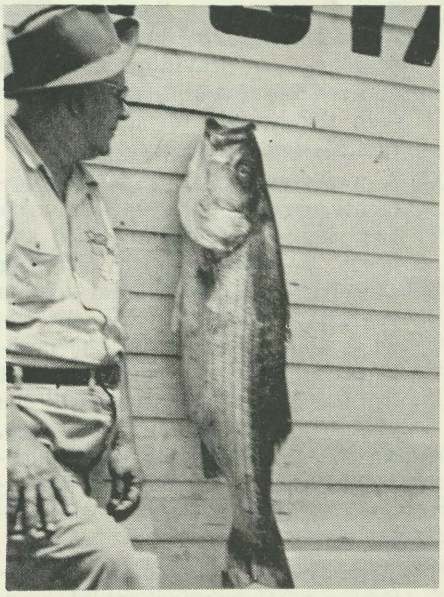
H. A study of the mourning dove situation to be carried out in cooperation with other southeastern states. Probably less is known about the mourning dove than any other prize game bird. We hope this survey will give us some valuable answers—and some more doves.

I. An exhaustive quail census and survey of quail habitats of the entire state. This is already in the mill, and will be carried out in much the same manner as the deer and turkey survey.

J. An organized quail trapping and restocking program to permit utilization of quail now "going to waste" in citrus groves, urban areas, and other localities inaccessible to hunters. Under this project wild birds will be trapped and moved to shot-out areas in same district. This should prove a much better restoration plan than importing dry-land quail from Mexico.

In addition, we are setting up a deer and turkey restoration project whereby deer and wild trapped native turkey can be planted in suitable areas over the state. Florida has great potentialities as both a deer and turkey state, and we hope to see them developed to the fullest extent.

Someone once remarked that the Pittman-Robertson program was a Christmas present from Uncle Sam to the states. It is more than that; it is a Christmas present from Uncle Sam to every living American who hunts and fishes and to all the sportsmen of a dozen future generations.



Here's proof that Georgia also has a few fish. J. H. Booth of Mt. Pleasant gazes at a 39-pound striped bass landed north of Chattahoochee in the Flint River.

Officials Suspend Violation Name List

The section in FLORIDA WILDLIFE, usually devoted to publishing the names of fish and game law violators who have been haled into court, has been removed this month.

Decision to stop publication of the names was made by the Commission at a meeting in Tallahassee on July 19 after Commissioner Ellis F. Davis, expressed the opinion that printing the names constituted double punishment for the offenders—once in court and again through the magazine. The present paper shortage also was considered in the commission decision. Elimination of the violation list, it was pointed out, will provide space for additional story material.

Hyacinth Eradication Work Begun In Columbia County

Spraying of hyacinths from a large Navy N-3.N plane in an effort to destroy them was recently undertaken on several lakes near Lake City, Columbia County.

The project was under the supervision of Col. Willis E. Teele, District Engineer, and was sponsored by the United States War Department.

Teele said that the spray was perfectly harmless to humans, fish, and cattle. The formula used was the Navy formula known as 2-4-D, a selected weed killer. When sprayed with the medical solution the water hyacinth withered, sank to the bottom and eventually died as the living organism of the plant dried up.

Duck Stamp Raise Is Now Proposed

A bill to authorize spending of federal duck-stamp funds to help protect migratory waterfowl outside the territorial limits of the United States has been introduced by Senator A. Willis Robertson of Virginia.

The proposed bill also would increase the price of the Migratory Bird Hunting Stamp to $2.00 and would strike out the clause limiting the amount that can be spent for waterfowl protection.

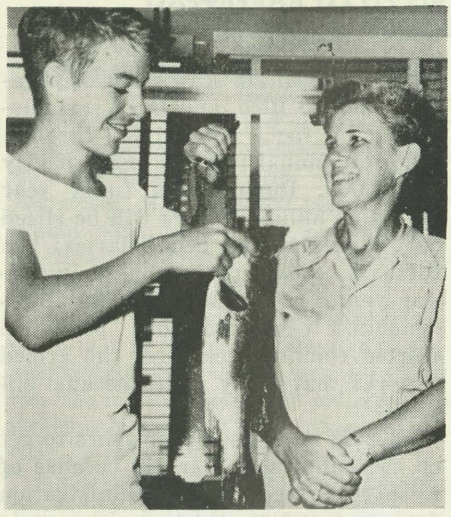
This bill is similar to the Kersten Bill, which has been tabled temporarily in the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, except for the clause permitting use of funds outside the country. Under both bills up to 25 per cent of federal refuge areas could be opened to public hunting when duck populations are increasing.

'GATOR WIELDS MEAN CLUB

L. F. Woodbery, of Inglis, recently had to use crutches as the result of an encounter with an eight-foot alligator.

Driving home from work one afternoon, Woodbery found a 'gator stretched across the highway, blocking the road. Thinking the 'gator dead, he used a piece of 2x4 from his car to prod him. Quickly the huge jaws grabbed the 2x4 and waved it furiously in the air. The plank struck Woodbery across the left ankle with a thud. The bruise was so bad that he had trouble driving home.

Needless to say, Woodbery left the 'gator where he found it.

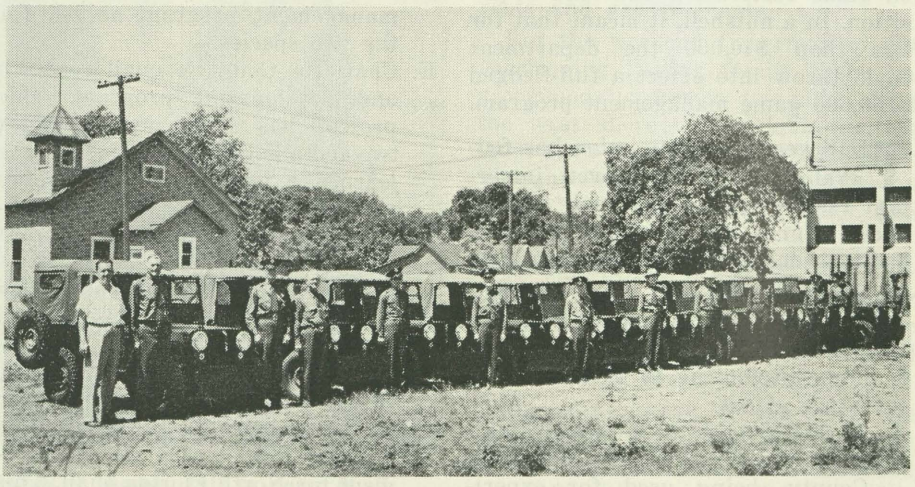


Thirteen - year - old John Carpenter of Louisville, Ky., was the lucky angler who hooked grand prize-winning Big Ben at the recent St. Petersburg Fishathon. No wonder John and his mother, Mrs. R. B. Carpenter, are smiling. They both received an all-expense stay at the exclusive Homasassa Springs hotel on the strength of John's catch.

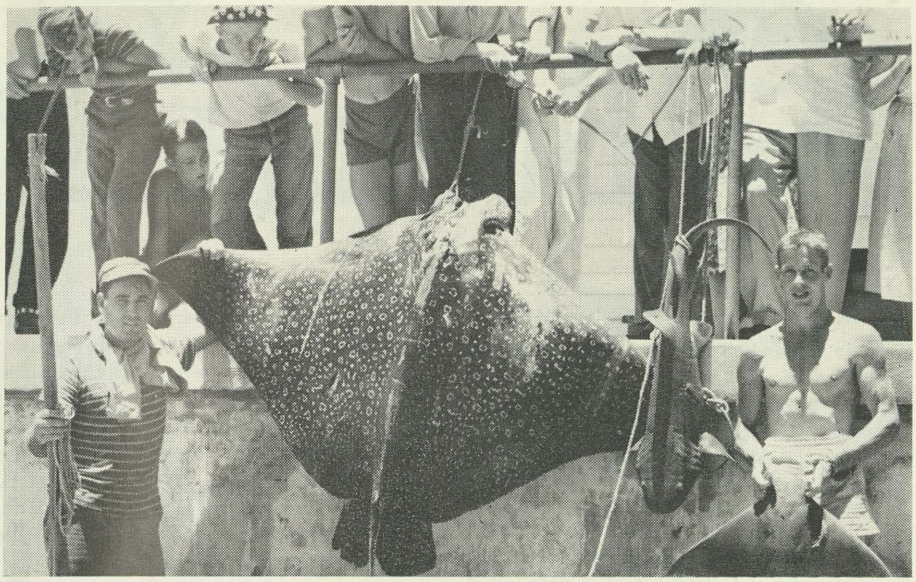
Eleven-State Survey On Dove Is Outlined

An eleven-state cooperative mourning dove survey of the Southeast was endorsed at the spring meeting of the Southeastern Association of Game, Fish, and Conservation Commissioners in Atlanta. The State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission has authorized the hiring of a migratory bird specialist to conduct the Florida survey.

Under the proposed plan each state will conduct its own investigation using Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration funds, and work of the cooperating states will be correlated through the regional Federal Aid Division of the Fish and Wildlife Service in Atlanta.



Ten brand new jeeps recently arrived in Tampa for wildlife officers in the First District. Commissioner Cecil Webb and District Chief J. E. Albritton (extreme left) were on hand to assign the new vehicles.



Sonny Markham, left, and Bob Paul, right, of Gulfport, harpooned this giant leopard ray in Tampa Bay recently. Shortly after the capture, the ray gave birth to five baby rays.

New $77,000 Survey OK'd for St. Johns And Okeechobee

The State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission recently authorized an expanded $77,000 fisheries survey of Lake Okeechobee and the St. Johns River in an effort to hasten settlement of the long-standing commercial fishing dispute on the two bodies.

Commission Chief Fisheries Biologist John F. Dequine said the expanded program would speed up his study "by at least two years." He estimated the new survey would take from eight to twelve months.

The more intensive fact-finding project was recommended to the commission by the 14-man committee assigned last month to study the problem.

Six commercial fishing crews on each body will be selected to help on the survey. Each crew will be supervised by a commission biologist. The netters will be allowed to sell "rough fish" taken in the hauls, but all game fish must be returned to the water "alive and unharmed."

The biologists will check fish populations, habits, growth rates and production potentialities in the two waters.

The study committee, composed of both sports and commercial fishermen, has indicated it will withhold a final recommendation pending results of the biological survey.

Wakulla county sportsmen paid $8,600 for hunting and fishing licenses during the current year, County Judge A. L. Porter has reported.

RASSLE ROYAL

A four-foot alligator provided all the thrills of an African big-game hunt recently for John Henry, of Old Homosassa.

The 'gator had just been captured and boated by Joe Nistelbeck, of Columbus, Ohio, when it suddenly charged on Henry and snapped his left hand.

During the frantic struggle that followed, Henry, Nistelbeck and the 'gator too fell overboard.

Henry and Nistelbeck were fished out of the water by Eustace Locklear, of Homosassa, and Edgar Watts, a visitor from Ohio. The 'gator escaped.

Florida Fishing Hits New High This Year, According to Report

The 1947-48 season was the biggest fishing year in Florida's history, the State Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission said last month.

Commission Director Ben C. Morgan reported that 220,500 persons bought fishing licenses during the fiscal year to shatter all previous records. Sales exceeded the 1946-47 figure by more than 53,000, he said.

He estimated there were "at least" a half-million additional fresh water fishermen who were not required to buy licenses.

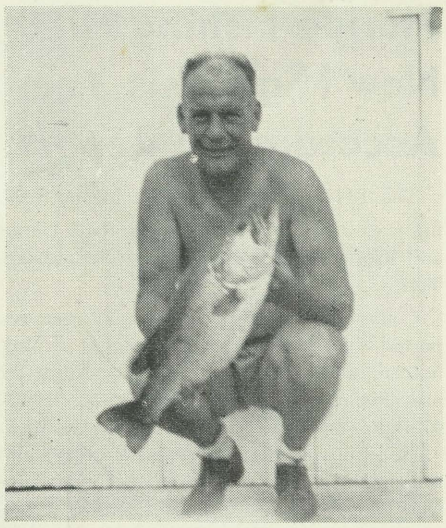
Morgan's report also showed that Florida entertained more out-of-state anglers last year than ever before. Non-resident license sales numbered 61,000—nearly 16,000 over the previous all-time high.

It was the commission's biggest year, too. Morgan reported that total receipts reached a record $1,024,000. Approximately $456,000 of the total came from fishing licenses; $404,000 from hunting permits and the remainder from miscellaneous fees. Morgan said it was the first time in the state's history receipts from fishing had exceeded those from hunting.

The bones of the sea cow (mermaid or manatee) are extremely dense and heavy for the purpose of keeping the animal down so that it can browse on aquatic plants.



Earl Christopher, representative of Ranger Reels and Plyflex Rods, shows young Patsy Wells, age 8½, the operation of one of the new reels that he presented to the Mount Dora Casters on behalf of his company. Left to right, Jeff Ray, Larry Sims, Margo Hosford, club organizer, Boyd Atkins, Frank Hall, and Jay Malone.



This 7¼ pound bass, 23 inches long, was caught on a fly rod with a live minnow when Gerry Blackwell, of Miami, tried his luck at Airport Lake just two miles from the International Airport.

Court Records Reveal Unlicensed Fishermen Top Conviction List

A total of 105 court convictions resulted ast month from violations of state game and fish laws.

Fishing without a license topped the list with 35 per cent of the total. The possession of undersized bass was next in line with 21 per cent. Ten per cent of the convictions resulted from exceeding the bag limit of fish. Hunting out of season accounted for six per cent while five per cent were for taking alligators out of season.

Three per cent of the convictions were for the sale of bass and a similiar number resulted from netting fresh water fish. Shooting from state highways brought convictions for four per cent of the offenders; fishing during closed season drew a similar percentage of convictions as did shooting fish. Charges of taking game with a gun and light and hunting in a game refuge accounted for two per cent each. One per cent came from fishing with more than one pole; a similar ratio was registered for commerical fishermen possessing black bass and for the possession of wire baskets.

There were 35 violations in the Second District; 23 in the Third; 20 in the Fifth; 16 in the Fourth; and 11 in the First.

In one day's fishing near Stuart, two New Yorkers, Otto Wormster, 80 years old, and Sigmund Cohn, 76, caught a total of 142 bass. All but two of the fish were released.



MAMMALS OF NORTH AMERICA —By Victor H. Cahalane. 682 x pages. Illustrated with 92 dramatic pen portraits of popular mammals by the celebrated outdoor illustrator Francis L. Jaques. Published by the Macmillan Company, 60 Fifth Avenue, New York, 1947. Price $7.50.

Those who are familiar with the author's previous book "Meeting the Mammals" need not be urged to secure a copy of this complete treatise. The earlier book, although a mere introduction to the principal North American mammals, continues in popularity and here we have a new, much larger volume embracing the entire field. The fascinating and intriguing, often humorous, style that characterizes the writings of Mr. Cahalane, commands reader interest. This is a book every member of the family will enjoy. It tells of the little things, intimate details, happy and tragic events in the lives of the wild creatures.

Under 94 headings, the author discusses the life history, habits, distinguishing characteristics, habitats, and range of all of the species of North American mammals. The clear and appealing animations permit readers to delve into the daily life of even our most elusive outdoor neighbors. None are omitted, the text includes chipmunks and squirrels, the bears and their small cousins, the cats and musk carriers, the original American livestock, and two seafarers. This is an authoritative work and the extensive bibliography of literature relating to mammals is of particular value to scientists.

RETRIEVER GUN DOGS—By William F. Brown. 143 xi pages. Illustrated with drawings by Edwin Megargee and halftones of superb photographs. A countryman press book. Published by A. S. Barnes and Company, 67 West 44th Street, New York 18, New York. Price $3.00.

A good retriever rates high in any circle of true sportsmen, since every well-trained field dog is a practicing conservationist. Never a game waster, he deems it his duty to recover every bird brought down by the hunter. Yes, a good retriever is the best conservation insurance a sportsman can take out but a misfit or an improperly trained gun dog is a nuisance. It is understood and agreed that no breed of dog can be expected to deliver its best without proper training and here are the things that the dog owner or handler should know to choose, train, and to take proper care of his hunting companion.

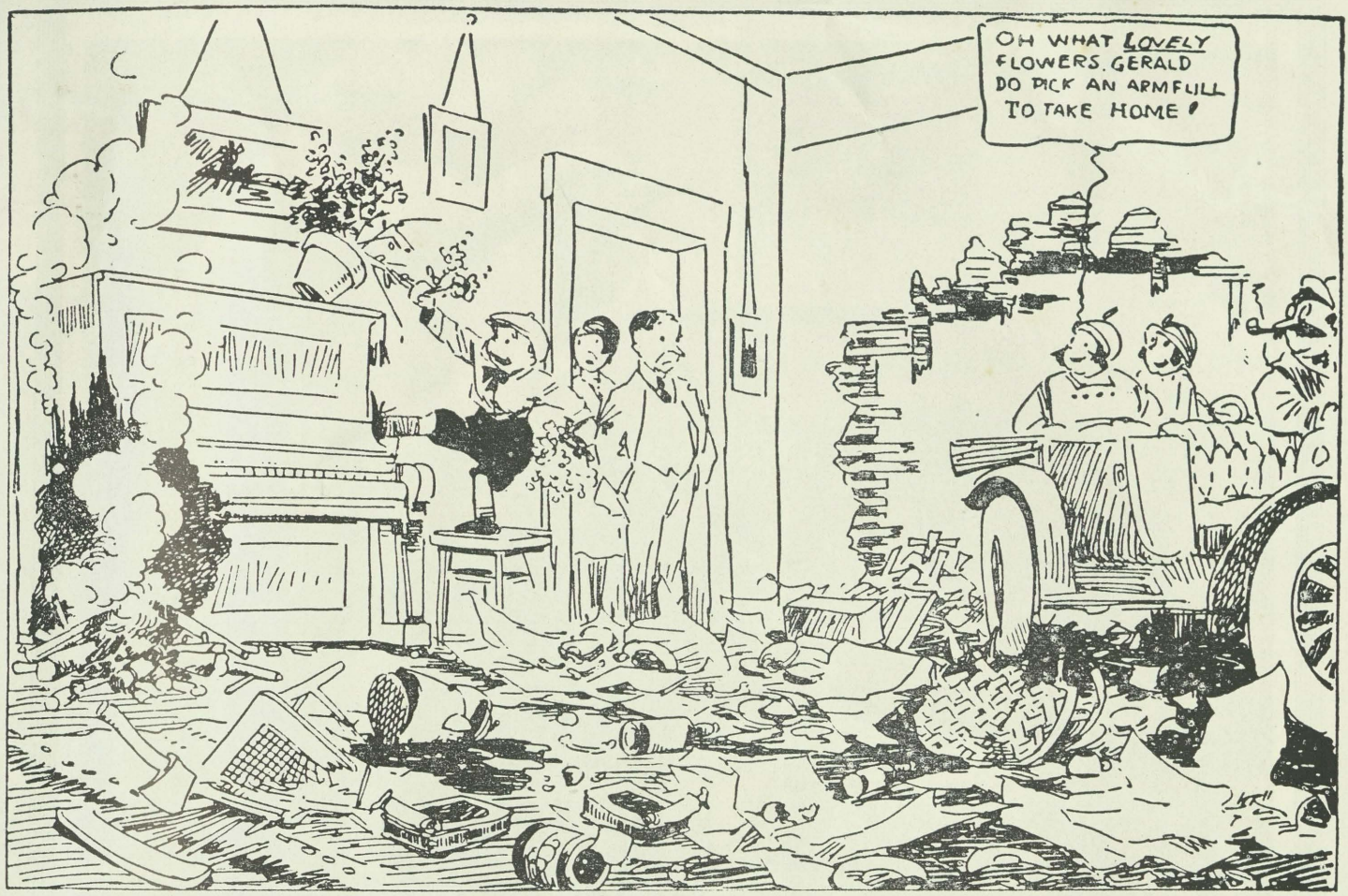
In this attractive and delightful treatise, the author, editor of "The American Field," presents the history, breed standards, and training of retrievers. All of the popular kinds: the Labrador, Golden, Chesapeake, Flat-coated, Irish Water, and American Water Spaniels, are included. How to select the right kind of dog. elementary schooling, yard training, obedience lessons, introducing to firearms, and field work, are explained step-by-step. Outstanding performances of retriever immortals are recited. This book reads easily and it contains an adequate index for easy reference.

SILENT WINGS, A MEMORIAL TO THE PASSENGER PIGEON—Edited by Walter E. Scott. 42 pages. Illustrated with half-tones of photographs; one full color reproduction of an original painting, dated 1835, by William Pope. Cover drawing by Hjalmar A. Skuldt. Published by the Wisconsin Society of Ornithology, Mendota Beach Heights, Madison 5, Wisconsin. Limited Edition of 4,000 copies. Paper cover. Price $1.00.

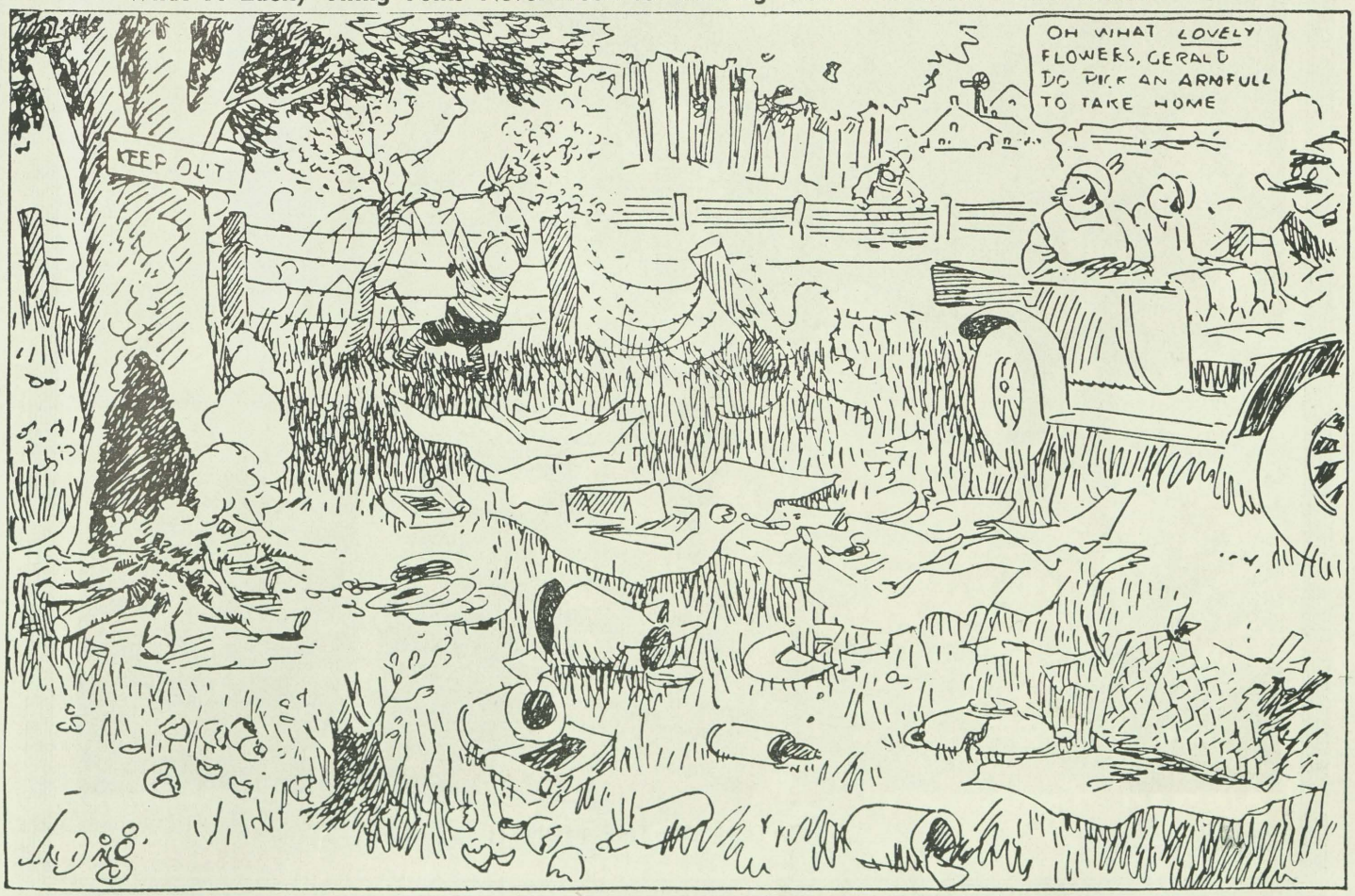
This eloquently written and well-published booklet is designed as a memorial to the passenger pigeon but it is an effective argument against the senseless extermination of other wildlife.

One of Aldo Leopold's spirited wildlife essays, entitled "On a Monument to the Pigeon," is the lead article. Following is a splendid contribution on the history of the passenger pigeon in Wisconsin which furnishes useful information and considerable food for thought. The description of the actions of commercial hunters and squab collectors certainly does not increase ones admiration for the human race.

If We Treated Our Homes As We Do Our Woods



What A Lucky Thing Folks Never Took to Holding Picnics In Other Folk's Homes



Moral: Take Your Indoor Manners With You When You Go Outdoors

The Library
State Capitol
Tallahassee, Florida



. . . CATCH OF THE MONTH